

Planning ahead: understanding you and your future



1 February 2025

When helping you achieve your goals, understanding your tomorrow is just as important as understanding your today. Likewise, a deep understanding of who you are, as well as those who are important in your life, is a vital part of ensuring the advice we provide suits your circumstances, and that you feel confident about your financial wellbeing and your future.

The bigger picture

We tend to think of life as a series of milestones. But often the events that happen ‘in-between’ are just as important to recognise and consider when seeking professional advice. Many of the key issues that need to be discussed with your family and with us may be matters that wouldn’t ordinarily arise in day-to-day conversation. Recognising, discussing and addressing the incremental changes that occur throughout *your* life, and the life of *your loved ones*, could make all of the difference in the future.

The questions below are designed to help you recognise some important issues. This will help us gain a better understanding of who you are and what’s important to you. Some questions will be a prompt for us to explore issues further with you.

Supporting your loved ones

Life can throw us curveballs, and when times are tough, we often do what we can to help those around us. Sometimes, this can happen without giving much thought to the future or making necessary arrangements that may be required to cater for these events. Providing support to a loved one could be financial but may also bring about other changes in your life if you wish to provide other types of care and assistance.

Are any of your children or other family members dependant on you financially or for care or accommodation? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Have you previously provided financial assistance to any of your children? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you anticipate you will provide financial assistance or other types of care and support (including accommodation) to any of your children or parents in the future? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Have any of your children provided you with, or do you expect them to provide you with, any financial assistance, care or other support? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Comments for discussion:

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Additional support for you or a loved one

There may come a day when the gardening is no longer something you do for relaxation, home maintenance gets away from you a little, and some help with daily life would really give you peace of mind. If not for yourself, ensuring a loved one is supported and assisted to retain some independence can bring greater peace of mind. Knowing what help is available and how to get it will mean when the time is right for you or your loved ones, the help that is needed will be available at the right time.

Have you noticed any early signs of frailty either within yourself or a relative? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you have any responsibilities or daily tasks where you or someone in your life would benefit from receiving support? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you aware of the types of support services available to help around the home or other activities, such as grocery shopping or getting to doctor's appointments? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If you or someone close to you needed support in the future, do you know how to access services of your choice to assist? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If there came a day where you or a loved one needed more support in a residence outside the home, is this something that has been discussed as a family? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If a higher level of care is on the horizon for you or a loved one, do you understand the costs involved, options available or your ability to fund any fees? ☐ Yes ☐ No

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Your home and you

The family home is not only one of our most valuable assets, but it is where many memories would have been made and is often a symbol of security. Regardless of whether or not you own your home, living in your home is also often associated with independence. It is important to think about what the future holds, and to understand any plans you might have to change your living arrangements, including in the longer term.

Do you see yourself living in your current place of residence in 5 years? 10 years? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Would there be any challenges to remaining in your home in the future?
Examples could include costs, maintenance issues or mobility issues. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are there any changes that may occur in your life that could create a desire or need to relocate, downsize or otherwise sell your home? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Have you ever thought about relocating to be closer to children, relatives and/or friends? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you think there may come a time where you need to provide care for someone else in your home? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you think there is likely to be any change to their living arrangements in the foreseeable future and has this been discussed with you? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If you or a close family member were to move out of the family home in the future to receive care and support in another environment:

- Would there be a need to retain the home to provide ongoing care and support for another person? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Would there be a preference to keep the family home? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- If the home was kept and was to be rented to help with cashflow, would any work be required to ensure it is suitable to rent? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Comments for discussion

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